

NEWS from
Democrat, New Mexico

U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman

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BINGAMAN COMMENTS ON DOE'S DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE LANL CONTRACT

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman today issued the following statement regarding the Department of Energy's draft request for proposals for the management of Los Alamos National Laboratory. DOE will accept comments on this draft for several weeks, and will issue the final RFP next year.

Bingaman's statement is as follows:

"The draft RFP has positive components, including requiring that the future lab manager must emphasize the research and development of science that will help support our stockpile stewardship program, as well as general science that promotes innovation. It also requires a long-term commitment of up to 20 years, which would provide the stability lab employees need and deserves.

"But I am disappointed that RFP does not make benefits and pension plans, as well as community support, part of what will be factored into who will win the next contract. I will express my concerns to DOE, and it's my hope that the final RFP will address these important issues."

Bingaman is the top Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.